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**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:  
25.08.1999 Bulletin 1999/34

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup>: **H05B 41/29**, **H05B 41/392**

(43) Date of publication A2:  
**21.04.1999 Bulletin 1999/16**

(21) Application number: 98119504.3

**(22) Date of filing: 15.10.1998**

**(84) Designated Contracting States:**  
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU**  
**MC NL PT SE**  
**Designated Extension States:**  
**AL LT LV MK RO SI**

**(30) Priority: 16.10.1997 JP 28336497  
24.10.1997 JP 29263997**

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(54) **Cold-cathode tube lighting circuit with protection circuit for piezoelectric transformer**

(57) To provide a cold-cathode tube lighting circuit which quickly and smoothly carries out lighting of a cold-cathode tube and prevents damage of a piezoelectric transformer as an inverter transformer in the lighting circuit, the lighting circuit is provided with a protection circuit for detecting a primary current of the piezoelectric transformer. The protection circuit stops operation of an oscillator for driving the piezoelectric transformer when the primary current is excessive. The protection circuit may be provided to detect excess of a secondary voltage of the piezoelectric transformer. When the cold-

cathode tube is used as a backlight for a liquid crystal display driven by the use of a scanning frequency, a dimmer circuit is used for producing a dimmer signal with a dimmer frequency and a controlled duty ratio given by a manual selector for controlling start and stop of the oscillator according to a desired brightness of the backlight. The dimmer frequency is obtained from frequency division of the scanning frequency. The controlled duty ratio is also modified corresponding to the divided frequency.

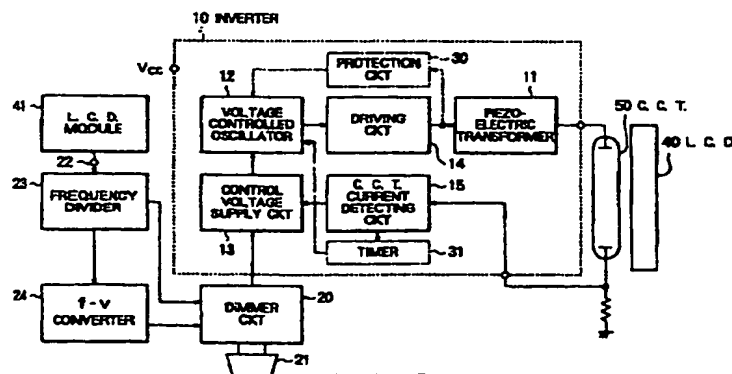


FIG. 5

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European Patent  
Office

Application Number

EP 98 11 9504

### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.  
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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19-03-1999

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